

H I S T O R Y  
OF  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
AND  
OHIO.

*Containing a brief History of the State of Ohio, from its earliest settlement to the present time, embracing its topography, geological, physical and climatic features; its agricultural, stock-growing, railroad interests, etc.; a History of Delaware County, giving an account of its aboriginal inhabitants, early settlement by the whites, pioneer incidents, its growth, its improvements, organization of the county, its judicial and political history, its business and industries, churches, schools, etc.; Biographical Sketches; Portraits of some of the Early Settlers and Prominent Men, etc., etc.*

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highest point near where the court house now stands, then, turning with a broad sweep to the west and south, it joins the outer boundary near the grounds of the Female College. Putting off on the south side of the run almost at the point of contact, it takes its course toward the east, abruptly terminating in the high ground where the University stands, inclosing a cove of some seventy-five acres. At the foot of the northern slope of this ground was a deer-lick, famous among the tribes for the medicinal qualities of its waters and for the game it attracted. The exact location of the Indian towns is largely a matter of speculation, the traditions proving on this point conflicting and unsatisfactory. It is pretty well determined, however, that the Delawares had a village on the north side of the run, where it entered the meadow. Where now Monnett Hall reposes in the cloistered quiet of the wood, stood the rude wigwams of the savage, looking out on a scene of loveliness that untrammeled nature alone can present. Spread out like a picture before them lay the beautiful cove, where

“ Amid the leaves’ green mass a sunny play  
Of flash and shadow stirs like inward life,”

while the murmuring brook, meandering to the river, sang to them of the goodness of the Great Spirit. Here, too, if tradition may be credited, echoed their warwhoop; here was the scene of the “ bloody grapple, the defying death-song; and, when the tiger strife was over, here curled the smoke of peace.” But the leveling hand of art has long since passed over the place, and on the spot once so rich in Indian memories now rises the thrifty city of Delaware.

The township was organized as one of the divisions of the newly formed county of Delaware, on June 16, 1808, and included the whole of Township 5 and the northern half of Township 4, of the United States Military Survey; Section 3 of Brown, and Section 2 of Berlin. In 1816, Troy was formed, taking off the northern half of Township 5, and on January 8, 1820, the Berlin section was taken off. In the year 1826, Brown was organized, leaving Delaware in regular shape—five miles square—though composed of parts of two Congressional townships. In 1852, a piece of territory a mile square, was taken from the southwest corner of this township and annexed to Concord, in compensation for a certain surrender of territory to Scioto, leaving Delaware in its present shape. As now situated, it is bounded on

the north by Troy; on the east by Brown and Berlin; on the south by Liberty and Concord, and on the west by Concord, Scioto and Radnor. The Olentangy River intersects the northern boundary of Delaware near the north and south section line, and passes through the township in a course a little east of south. Flowing into it from either side, are a number of small tributaries, the more important of which are Delaware, Rocky and Slate Runs, affording ample drainage for the larger part of the township. Along the east bank of the river, are rich lands known as “second bottoms,” made up of a fine gravelly loam, highly prized by farmers, which changes to clay as the high lands further back are reached. After passing the horseshoe bottom, the high land approaches to the bank of the river and takes on the character of bluffs in the city, but recedes again as you go south. Along the western bank, the land extending toward the northwest is high, rolling ground. South of the Delaware Run, there were originally a number of elm swamps of greater or less extent, especially along the Bellepoint road. Here, elm, black-ash and burr-oak timber abound, while along the margin of Delaware Run, and in the northwest, are found maple, ash, oak and walnut. In the further corner of the latter section, there is evidence of the ravages of a tornado which passed over that point in 1806-07, felling the timber over a narrow space for some distance through Troy. The banks of the Olentangy were well wooded with a heavy growth of oak and maple, save where the bottoms had been cleared by the Indians. Here there was an abundance of jack oak and wild cherry. The site of the city of Delaware was covered with a tall growth of prairie grass, with a fringe of plum-trees along the run, with here and there a scrub oak or thorn apple. Although the township is thus admirably adapted to agriculture, it is, by no means, the absorbing pursuit. The raising and importing of fine stock has reached very large proportions, and some of the finest specimens of blooded horses, cattle and sheep to be found in the State are seen here. It may be said that some of the finest animals of the Percheron breed of horses in the United States are owned in Delaware, while animals from a herd of short-horns in the township have been exported and sold in England for some \$30,000. This feature merits a more complete description than can be given in this place, and will be found elsewhere.

The early vigor of the city of Delaware has precluded the growth of anything like villages in

other parts of the township, but, notwithstanding such discouragements, two places have been platted and have succeeded in perpetuating their names. Prospect Hill, situated on the high land east of the river and just north of Sugar Creek, was laid out as a town with eighteen lots in 1852, by Dr. Ralph Hills. It is intersected by Prospect and Olentangy streets, and has since become a part of the city of Delaware. Stratford on Olentangy was laid out in 1850, by Hon. Hosea Williams and H. G. Andrews, and consisted of seventeen lots, containing from fifty to seventy-nine perches of land each. These lots are situated on the west bank of the river, front on Sandusky street, and were intended primarily to furnish homes for the hands employed in the mills located at that point. This has been a favorite point for mills since the first settlement of the county, the first being built as early as 1808. This structure and property passed into the hands of Col. Meeker, who rebuilt and enlarged the mill, and, in 1829, added facilities for carding and fulling. Some years later Caleb Howard, an enterprising, speculative sort of a man, conceived the idea of establishing a paper-mill here, and succeeded in interesting Judge Hosea Williams, a safe, cautious business man, in the project. In the spring of 1838, the old flouring-mill with the mill privileges and property were bought, the old dam replaced by a fine stone structure, and a paper-mill put in operation October 1, 1839. John Hoyt was the first Superintendent, and gave the classical name of Stratford to the place. On October 30, 1840, a fire originating among the old rags, by spontaneous combustion, did considerable damage to the interior of the building. In three months it was repaired and improved, and, in the fall of 1844, Howard sold his interest to H. G. Andrews. In 1849, the old flouring-mill was fitted up for the manufacture of wrapping paper, and turned out about a half a ton per day, employing some ten hands. On February 27, 1857, the entire mills were burned, entailing a loss of \$25,000, with an insurance of not over \$10,000. In November of 1857, a stone building, two stories high, about 50x80 feet, with several additions, was built at a cost of some \$30,000. These mills have filled some important contracts with the State. At the time of the fire, in 1840, the firm had accounts to the amount of \$10,000 due it from the State, and, in 1861, they had a large contract with the State, which, owing to the unforeseen and extraordinary rise of the paper market, they were obliged to ask to have rescinded. In 1871, J. H.

Mendenhall became a partner; later, Mr. Andrews retired, and the property is now in the hands of V. T. & C. Hills. The main mill manufactures print and book papers, and the one on the site of the old flouring-mill furnishes wrapping paper. The minimum capacity is about one ton of paper each per day. An artesian well which was sunk 210 feet through solid limestone rock furnishes water for purifying purposes. Steam furnishes the power during the low stages of the water.

The tide of emigration, to which this county is indebted for its settlement, flowed up the valley of Alum Creek, following the main Indian trail, along the fertile banks of the Scioto, and by the old Granville road, forming settlements in Radnor, on the forks of the Whetstone, in Berkshire and in Berlin. The first colony did, indeed, follow the Olentangy, but it stopped at Liberty, leaving Delaware an "undiscovered country." Thus, while the forests all about were ringing with the blows of the pioneer's ax, the township of the greatest future political importance stood desolate amid the ruins of her early habitations. In their excursions through the woods, the first settlers found here, in a tangled mass of tall grass and thickets, wild cherries, plums and grapes, growing in generous profusion. It was the scene of many a frolic, and, occasionally, of a more serious experience of those who were attracted from the surrounding settlements for the fruits with which to embellish the frugal meal of the frontier cabin. One day, in the fall of 1806, two girls, about sixteen years of age, named Rilla Welch and Rena Carpenter, from the Liberty settlement, came to what was then called the Delaware Plains, for plums. Busy gathering fruit, they took no note of time, until nearly sun-down. Startled at the lateness of the hour, they hurriedly took a course which they thought led toward home. Night came on before they reached a familiar spot, and, following the course of the Delaware Run, they found themselves at last at the cabin of Mr. Penry, in Radnor. Here they were obliged to stay through the night. In the morning, as they were escorted home, they met the people of the Liberty settlement out in full force, with every conceivable instrument of noise, in search of the girls, whom they supposed had remained in the woods all night.

The first purchase of land in this township was made by Abraham Baldwin, and included the third section of Brown and the northeast section of Delaware, containing eight thousand acres.